



ON MARCH 8 WE WILL PREPARE SMALL TREES FOR OUR YEARLY SHOW ON JUNE 3,4-SHOW UP



HERE IS OUR DEMO SCHEDULE

MARCH: tree potting workshop for our annual show June 3,4

APRIL: Peter Macasieb (pine shohin demo)

MAY: Ted Matson (Bring your own tree for critique and show preparation tips)

JUNE: Marcus Juniel (carving)

JULY: Tom Vuong (Deadwood)

JOSH

Above left: Al Nelson's oak that he contributed to the Huntington collection as seen at the Bonsai-a-thon

Above right: Thomas Vuong during his grafting demo at Sansui-kai in February



## The Grafts Close Up

*photos by EYHO*

The knife will always have one flat side. That flat side is against the branch. He pushes the knife with his left thumb. Fingers are behind. He has one knife for left cutting and one for right. Graft from the outside in. Graft on the outside curve of the branch. When cutting the scion pull through with your left hand. The scion should be a little longer on the inside.

He likes elastic tape to hold the scion in place. And the ties as shown on top of the tape. Then create a little greenhouse with 2.5mm plastic around the graft.

The largest scion Tom has grafted successfully is thumb size. When grafting on the trunk a chisel is useful.

## “GRAFTING WILL CHANGE YOUR VIEW OF BONSAI” TOM VUONG

The grafting techniques were demonstrated while stressing technique and safety. If you are older do not try this if you have not had your nap. Do not drink and graft. If you are young do not text and graft. Count your fingers.

Mr. Vuong was accompanied by his wife Heather. They drove over 2 hours to get to SSK that evening. He was gracious with his time and supervised individually to be sure we got the idea. (see below).

After the demo we were much more aware of the experience and talent needed to graft an entire bonsai.

Things you might need are knife with one side flat, stretchable tape, ties and 2.5mm plastic to create a weather bubble.

## Be careful!!

Below: Hands on Supervision with Eric and Mitch







In this odd year most trees have broken dormancy. This presents some problems. We may later get more frosty nights. Bring trees coming out of dormancy into sunny locations to stimulate the new growth but be ready to move them back into protection if the weather should turn cold.

### WATER

Watering needs to be handled carefully as well. Over watering will promote large leaves or leaves with browning at the tips.

### BLOOMERS

Many flowering trees will be in bloom. When they have bloomed out eighty percent of their flowers, remove the remaining buds and all of the bloom. This will prevent stressing the tree. Leave a few blooms on fruiting trees so that a few fruits will develop for the fall. The same should be done with berries.

### FERTILIZER

It is not too early to use high nitrogen fertilizers and magnesium, sulfur and iron can be added for good leaf color. Conifers can also be fertilized with organic fertilizers. Liquid fertilizers can be used such at one half or one quarter strength Miracle Grow.

### TRANSPLANTING

From March until June is the time to transplant. There are two reasons to transplant; the first is that the tree needs to be moved to another pot for aesthetic reasons; the second is for reasons of health of the tree. When transplanting into a new pot

roots will not be disturbed too much. Some root pruning will undoubtedly be necessary. Remove large unsightly roots but leave enough white fine feeders to sustain the tree. Remember to remove some foliage if you remove a significant number of roots in order to maintain a balance between water uptake and water loss.

Trees that are vigorous such as willows may have to be potted every year but in general the decision to change soil should be made when the tree shows signs of slowing down in growth or signs of being root bound.

### BUGS

Insects can be bad at this time of year particularly aphids and scale. Check early and often. Spray with Ultra Fine and Malathion or other insecticide as directed. It is better to use slightly dilute mixes due to the fact that trees in pots tend to be more sensitive to insecticides than those in the ground. A second spraying with lime sulfur for deciduous trees can be done now if you did not do it in Feb. Do not spray lime sulfur on new growth or flowers unless you are willing to suffer some damage.

### CUTTINGS

This is the perfect time to start deciduous cuttings, especially large ones. Grafting of deciduous trees can also be done but by April is too late for junipers.



Sansui-Kai is dedicated to the learning, use and teaching of the horticulture techniques and artistic principles needed to grow, design and care for bonsai. Regular membership is \$22 & \$27 for Families.

#### Administration

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[www.Sansui-Kai.org](http://www.Sansui-Kai.org)

## SANSUI KAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - March 2017

by

Jack G. Reynolds

The election of officers for the club was a little anticlimactic but the formalities were observed. I look forward to working with our board for another year. We have an almost full board but still need someone to handle programs. Josh has stepped up and lined up demonstrators for the months of April, May, June and July. This month we will be potting sale trees for our show and sale June 3-4. The club needs someone to take over the job of program VP for the second half of the year. Josh is fully occupied with the benefit drawing and can't do both.

This will be my last year to serve as president. It is more difficult to make the commute each month especially as Sansui-kai meetings are not the only things that keep me on the road to the greater LA area. I will always maintain my membership in this my mother club but probably will not attend all the meetings.

This season is my favorite bonsai time. Each year I anticipate the reppoting of trees from training pots to show pots. There are always surprises to see how the tree takes on a more elegant air as it goes into its show pot for the first time.

The tree may have been in training for many years and you have gotten used to seeing it in the training pot, but now it takes on the aura of your daughter's first prom. You almost want to send out announcements. I also love the flowering trees now. For most of the year they look dowdy and unkept which they are, but now in just a few days they enter their special time and after a little grooming shine in all their glory.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting. Be thinking about how you can help the club win new members and how you can help continue it's mission. Jack

## S'UP

March 8 meeting will be repotting trees for sale at the annual show. Bring tools.

Sansui-kai annual bonsai show June 3,4  
Get your trees ready now

Mauro Stemberger workshop on your trees on Sunday  
April 2nd 9AM to 4. Call  
Michael Jonas (818) 776-0813

LA Community Bonsai Swap Meet is Sunday March 26 from 10 am to 2 pm at Jesse Owens Park at 7100 White Oak Avenue, Reseda

Carving Workshop April 15,16.  
Call Bob Pressler for details